(b) No, Sir. Opting for the Code is voluntary.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Banking Ombudsman is a grievance redressal mechanism to attend to individual customer complaints relating to deficiences in banking services. On the other hand, the BCSBI is an industry watchdog to oversee compliance with the Code. It is not redressal mechanism and will look into an individual complaint only to the extent it points to any systemic failure in compliance with the Code.

Infrastructure status to micro irrigation sector

1556. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is long standing demand from Micro irrigation sector to approve infrastructure for enabling the industry to avail institutional financing in the country;

(b) if so, Government response thereto;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to reduce taxes, duties, octroi and local taxes on micro-irrigation systems in the country so that cost of micro irrigation systems reduced further and

(d) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No representation has been received by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) The Task Force on Micro Irrigation headed by Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Ex-Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh has recommended that no taxes of the nature of sales tax, trade tax, purchase tax, local taxes like Octroi, entry tax should be levied on the micro-irrigation system. The Task Force also recommended that the Import Duties on plastic raw materials required for the micro-irrigation industry should be abolished. It has also recommended the abolition of VAT, Excise Duty on micro-irrigation system including its components namely lateral tubing, main pipeline, filtration equipment and its automation etc. The Government has extended the benefits of Section 80 IA of the Income Tax Act to the Micro-Irrigation Sector.